

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT SEATTLE

9 MAHAMED ALI JAMA,

10 Plaintiff,

CASE NO. C18-01112-RSL

11 v.

12 CHASE ERIN, et al.,

ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR  
APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

13 Defendants.

14  
15 Plaintiff Mahamed Ali Jama, proceeding pro se and *in forma pauperis* (IFP) in this civil  
16 matter, submitted a motion for appointment of counsel. (Dkt. 8.) The motion was referred to the  
17 undersigned for a determination. (Dkt. 9.) Having now considered the motion, the Court finds  
and ORDERS as follows:

18 (1) Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1), “[t]he Court may request an attorney to  
19 represent any person unable to afford counsel.” However, there is no right to appointment of  
20 counsel in a civil case. *See United States v. 30.64 Acres of Land*, 795 F.2d 796, 801 (9th Cir.  
21 1986). Moreover, the Court may appoint counsel only in exceptional circumstances. *Wilborn v.*  
22 *Escalderon*, 789 F.2d 1328, 1331 (9th Cir. 1986). “A finding of exceptional circumstances  
23 requires an evaluation of both the likelihood of success on the merits and the ability of the

1 plaintiff to articulate his claims *pro se* in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved.”

2 *Id.* These factors must be viewed together before reaching a decision on a request for counsel  
3 under § 1915(e)(1). *Id.*

4 Plaintiff provides almost no information in support of his motion for the appointment of  
5 counsel. Having considered the motion, as well as plaintiff’s complaint, the Court finds  
6 insufficient information to allow for a determination that exceptional circumstances warrant the  
7 appointment of counsel. As it stands, plaintiff does not demonstrate a likelihood of success on  
8 the merits. Nor is it entirely clear plaintiff is unable to articulate his claims *pro se*. Accordingly,  
9 plaintiff’s motion for appointment of counsel (Dkt. 8) is herein DENIED without prejudice to  
10 renewal of the motion at a later date.

11 (2) The Clerk shall send a copy of this Order to plaintiff and to the Honorable Robert  
12 S. Lasnik.

13 DATED this 23rd day of October, 2018.

14  
15 

16 Mary Alice Theiler  
17 United States Magistrate Judge  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23